

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) An optical glass which comprises, by mol%, 22 to 40 % of B_2O_3 , 12 to 40 % of SiO_2 , 2 to 20 % of Li_2O , 5 to 15 % of CaO , 2 to 14 % of ZnO , 0.5 to 4 % of La_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of Gd_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of Y_2O_3 , the total content of La_2O_3 , Gd_2O_3 and Y_2O_3 being at least 1 %, 0 to 5 % of Al_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of ZrO_2 and 0 to 5 % of BaO , the total content of the above components being more than 96 %, said optical glass having a refractive index (nd) of 1.57 to 1.67, an Abbe's number (vd) of 55 to 65 and a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 550°C or lower and having a haze value of 3 % or less in terms of climate resistance.

11. (Previously Presented) The optical glass as recited in claim 10, which has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 540°C or lower.

12. (Previously Presented) The optical glass as recited in claim 10, which comprises B_2O_3 , SiO_2 , Li_2O , CaO , ZnO and La_2O_3 .

13.-14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) An optical glass consisting of, by mol%, 22 to 40 % of B_2O_3 , 12 to 40 % of SiO_2 , 2 to 20 % of Li_2O , 5 to 15 % of CaO , 2 to 14 % of ZnO , 0.5 to 4 % of La_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of Gd_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of Y_2O_3 , the total content of La_2O_3 , Gd_2O_3 and Y_2O_3 being at least 1 %, 0 to 5 % of Al_2O_3 , 0 to 3 % of ZrO_2 and 0 % of BaO , the total content of the above components being more than 96 %, and having a refractive index (nd) of 1.57 to 1.67 and an Abbe's number (vd) of 55 to 65.

16. (Previously Presented) The optical glass as recited in claim 15, which comprises a refining agent.

17. (Previously Presented) The optical glass as recited in claim 15, which has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 550°C or lower and has a haze value of 3 % or less in terms of climate resistance.

18. (Previously Presented) The optical glass as recited in claim 15, which has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 540°C or lower and has a haze value of 3 % or less in terms of climate resistance.

19. (Previously Presented) A press-molding preform, which is made of the optical glass recited in claim 10 or 15.

20. (Previously Presented) An optical element made of the optical glass recited in claim 10 or 15.

21. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a preform for press-molding, which comprises separating a predetermined amount of a molten glass gob from a molten glass flow of the optical glass recited in claim 10 or 15, and forming the gob into a glass preform.

22. (Previously Presented) A process for producing an optical element, which comprises heating, softening and press-molding the preform recited in claim 19.

23. (Previously Presented) A process for producing an optical element, which comprises heating, softening and press-molding a preform obtained by the process recited in claim 21.